

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

PC-01 /070 W

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R 151010Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9839

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0647

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: REFERENDUM QUESTION ON INA DROPPED

REF: A) MANILA 512

B) MANILA A-10 OF JAN. 13, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 14, MALACANANG ANNOUNCED REFERENDUM QUESTION ON INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (INA) BEING DROPPED SINCE PEOPLE INDICATED THEY DID NOT WANT INA IN EARLIER REFERENDUM. COMMISSION ON ELECTION (COMELEC) HAS SUBMITTED REVISED QUESTIONS TO PRESIDENT WHO PLANS ANNOUNCE THEM FRIDAY, JAN. 17 "CONSTITUTION DAY". COMELEC CHAIRMAN PEREZ SAID QUESTIONS COVER SAME AREAS AS ORIGINAL QUESTIONS, I.E. MARTIAL LAW, TENURE OF LOCAL OFFICIALS AND LEGISLATIVE BODY. RETENTION OF LEGISLATIVE BODY RUBRIC SUGGESTS REFERENDUM QUERY ON LEGISLATIVE

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ADVISORY COUNCIL POSSIBLE. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS HARDLY

CALCULATED ENHANCE REFERENDUM'S CREDIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. LATE JANUARY 14, MALACANANG ANNOUNCED REFERENDUM QUESTION ON CONVENING OF INA DROPPED SINCE PEOPLE HAD REJECTED IT IN JANUARY 1973 REFERENDUM. PRESS REPORTS COMELEC CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIAL STUDY GROUP HEADED BY SEN. TOLENTINO REVEALED NO SENTIMENT WHATSOEVER FOR CONVENING OF INA AND FEATURES INTERVIEWS WITH INA OPPOSERS. LEAD EDITORIAL IN JANUARY 15 DAILY EXPRESS ARGUES THAT THOSE AGITATING FOR CONVENING INA ARE POLITICIANS OF THE "OLD MOLD WHO HAVE SOUGHT IN THE ASSEMBLY OPPORTUNITY TO ROAM ANEW THE CORRIDORS OF POWER". EXPRESS EDITORIALIST SAYS FACT THAT NATIONS HAS BEEN DOING WELL SINCE MARTIAL LAW "WITHOUT THEIR ILK" IS BEST ARGUMENT AGAINST CONVENING INA.

3. COMELEC CHAIRMAN PEREZ SAID REVISED QUESTIONS GIVEN PRESIDENT MARCOS ("SUBSTANTIALLY SAME BUT SIMPLIFIED") COVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARTIAL LAW AND LEGISLATIVE MATTERS. HE STRESSED QUESTIONS CONSTITUTE RECOMMENDATIONS AND MARCOS MIGHT FURTHER AMEND OR ADD TO THEM. MARCOS WILL ANNOUNCE THEM JANUARY 17, CONSTITUTION DAY, POSSIBLY AT THE SAME TIME HE RECEIVES TRANSCRIPTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DEBATES.

4. COMMENT: MARCOS' DECISION TO DROP INA QUESTION EXPRESSLY CONTRADICTS HIS REMARKS TO CHASE-MANHATTAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 3, 1974 (SEE REFAIR) WHEN HE SAID THAT "I ANNOUNCED THAT EVERY YEAR WE WOULD SUBMIT THE QUESTION OF THE CALLING OF CONGRESS THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CREATED BY THE NEW CONSTITUTION TO THE PEOPLE, EVERY YEAR, AND THAT TENTATIVELY, IT WOULD BE EVERY JANUARY, EVERY YEAR." PEREZ' INDICATION THERE WILL BE QUESTION ON LEGISLATIVE MATTERS SUGGESTS PRESIDENT COULD BE PLANNING QUERY ON LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEE REF A.) MARCOS' LATEST MOVE IS NOT CALCULATED TO ENHANCE REFERENDUM'S CREDIBILITY BUT AS REGIME APOLOGIST VALENCIA BLITHELY POINTED OUT IN HIS COLUMN JANUARY 14 "PRESIDENT MERELY WANTS TO CONSULT THE PEOPLE. HE IS NOT ASKING THEM TO DECIDE ANYTHING."
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINT, RP, INA-INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
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